CADventures

Information for Users of AutoCAD
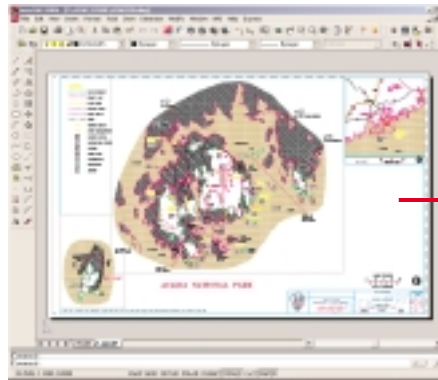
Things to TRY

Make Your Drawing into a .TIF

By popular demand, it's back. We purchased the driver, so it's here to stay.

You can now create a .tif file directly from AutoCAD using **PrfGenerator**. Simply change the **Active Config** pull down list (at the top of the PrfGenerator dialog box) to **'CONFIG Tiff File Output'** (it's down at the bottom of the list). Proceed with your plot as usual, changing any parameters like paper size as desired. Make note of the PRF Name. Now look in the **P:\ Incoming\ TiffOutput** folder and you should see a .tif file with the same name as your PRF Name.

IMPORTANT: Please copy your .tif file from P:\Incoming \TiffOutput to a folder that is appropriate for your project. P:\Incoming\TiffOutput is a temporary area only and is regularly cleaned out.

Q. Why Would I Want a .TIF?

A. Some reasons...

1. To insert the .tif into a Word document. The .tif file looks just like the plotted drawing, complete with lineweights and screening. You can copy/paste objects directly from AutoCAD to Word, but those objects won't look like the final plotted drawing, but the .tif will.

2. To insert the .tif into a Power Point presentation.

3. To send the .tif to someone who does not have AutoCAD.

4. To send the .tif to someone, and you don't want that someone to be able to modify the original AutoCAD drawing.

You Need to KNOW

AutoCAD Autosave

Q. Using AutoCAD 2000, I spent a lot of time working on a drawing, then it crashed without giving me a chance to save. How do I recover the autosave drawing file?

A. Check your save time setting: type **SAVETIME<enter>**. Is it set to a resonable value? If not, set it now, or cancel the command with ESCAPE - the most common setting is 20-30 (minutes). To access the autosave drawing:

1. In AutoCAD, type **SAVEFILEPATH<enter>**. Note the path name, then press ESCAPE to cancel.

2. Go to Windows Explorer (My Computer). Navigate to the path you noted from step one.

3. Look for a file that begins with the same characters as your drawing (.dwg) file-name, but ends with a .sv$ extension. The file type wil be 'AutoCAD Autosave Drawing'. For example, my autosave filename for Acadcov.dwg was ACAD-COV_1_1_9169.sv$. To help locate the file, you can sort the folder by date and look accordingly.

4. Right-click on the .sv$ 'AutoCAD Autosave Drawing', then click Rename. Rename the file back to it's original name (in my example, that would be Acadcov.dwg.

5. Open the .dwg in AutoCAD. If it's the file you want, use the SAVEAS command to replace the original, older version - the one on P: or elsewhere.

6. Practice safe AutoCADing; save your file often, then you won't have to rely on autosave (For a quick way to save, press CTRL+S .)
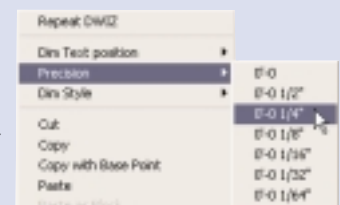
Do You Right-Click?

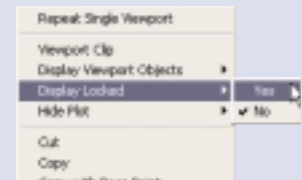Q1. How can you quickly change the precision of a dimension? (The answer is NOT to explode it.)

Q2. How can you quickly lock a viewport -so that you cannot mess it up with pan & zoom?

A. Highlight the object, then right-click. You'll be presented with a pop-up menu with options. Here are some examples:

Highlight a dimension, then right-click. You'll be presented with this pop-up menu. Very handy!

Shown here is the Paperspace viewport right-click pop-up menu. Here you can lock the viewport or change hide plot settings.

Q. Why doesn't right-click work?

A. Two things can cause your right-click not to work when objects are selected:

1. Check your PICKFIRST setting by typing **PICKFIRST <enter>**, then **1 <enter>**.

Still doesn't work?

2. Click Tools > Options, User Preferences tab, choose Right-click Customiztion, choose **If one or more objects are select, right click means** = **Shortcut Menu**.